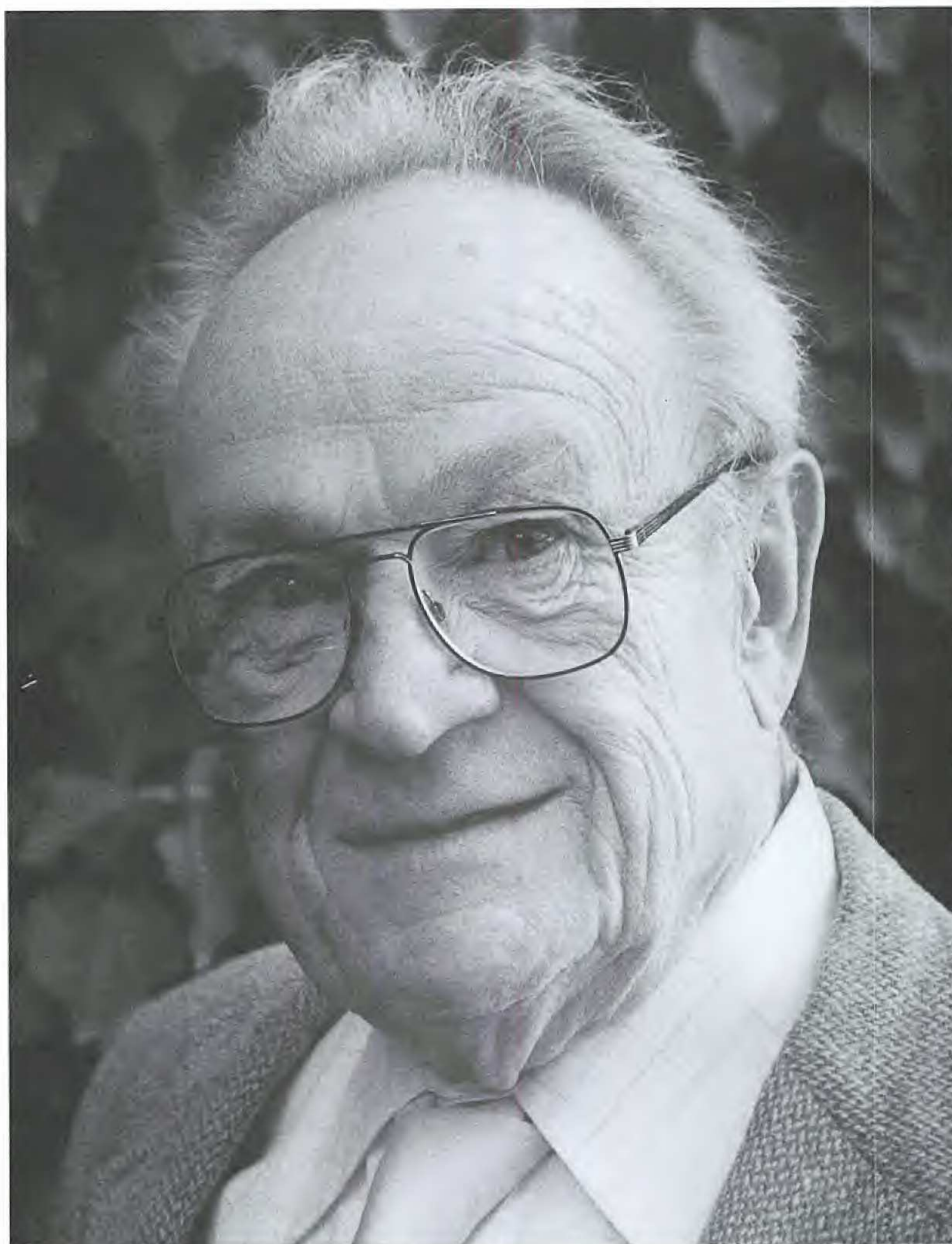


DEDICATION

WARREN HERBERT WAGNER, JR.
1920–2000



This issue of *Rhodora* is dedicated to Dr. Warren Herbert Wagner, Jr.—botanist and friend to botanists, professor, and student. Club members will long remember his spirited defense of field botany and whole-plant biology given at the symposium.

Largely responsible for rejuvenating the systematic study of North American pteridophytes, Herb considered thorough field knowledge of the plants in question a prerequisite to any laboratory investigation. He demonstrated the efficacy of this policy with major advances in the systematics of spleenworts (*Asplenium*), woodferns (*Dryopteris*), and moonworts (*Botrychium*). Herb's legacy extends beyond the study of pteridophytes, however, since his students and others have applied his lessons across the botanical spectrum. In particular, his demonstration of retic-

ulate evolution in many fern genera led to a general inquiry about the significance and evolutionary consequences of natural hybridization. Many of us will remember him also for the development of "Wagner Trees" during the infancy of cladistics, which is ironic since clades can be obscured by hybrid reticulation.

In his later years Herb returned increasingly to field work, and ended his career immersed in the discovery and naming of new species. Within the past 20 years he named more than a dozen new species of *Botrychium* from the Great Lakes region and western North America, and during his last summer he traveled to Alaska to investigate a new moonwort there. In addition, he recently named numerous species of Hawaiian ferns, on which he was an expert, based on his many years of field experience there.

Young at heart, always curious and inquisitive, never accepting dogma (old or new), Herb was a most enthusiastic teacher, a prolific writer, and a superb field companion. He was always ready to talk about the nature of plants, either on a broad scale or a narrow one, and he enlivened any field trip with his broad range of knowledge.

Although his main research efforts lay outside New England, we all have benefitted from his work and his teachings. The NEBC is especially grateful that Herb gave freely of his time and spirit to the symposium.

—ARTHUR V. GILMAN, *Rhodora* Centennial Symposium Committee.